

Marci McLean

Chairman and Committee Members:

I come before you today in support of SB 395, and to tell my story.

I am Blackfeet, I now live in Billings. Three years ago I was working 30 plus hours in home health care and going to school full time, at the time I was uninsured. I tore one of my rotator cuff muscles, in an activity at home. I endured the pain and limited motion and could no longer do home health care, so I applied and was eligible for unemployment. After over a year of waiting for my shoulder to heal, with no improvement I had to travel from Missoula to Browning, that is four hours one way, so I could receive care at the Blackfeet Indian Health Service Unit. I was diagnosed with a torn muscle, and referred to Great Falls for an MRI and surgery to repair the full thickness tear. I am grateful that I was one of the chosen cases for what is called contract care, not all patients are granted the gift of treatment, some have to just live with the pain and limitation.

If I had been eligible for Medicaid I could have received timely treatment and been able to re-enter the home health field of care, and physical therapy for rehab of my shoulder back to normal strength. However I had to go without physical therapy and do the rehab on my own, I was able to reach full recovery thanks to my education in Physical Therapy and Human Biology.

I urge you to vote for Medicaid Expansion, so the working families ineligible for health care may be eligible for basic health care and preventative services, as you know healthier employees have a higher rate of productivity.

Thank you,

Marci